

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 L-02 PRS-01 PA-01 H-02

/028 W

----- 126316

P R 111747Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8611

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04020

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, PFOR, OEXC

SUBJECT: REPORTED KREIBICH-LOEWENTHAL CONFLICT

REF: STATE 50455

PARA 1-5 DRAFTED BY USMISSION USBERLIN IN RESPONSE  
TO REFTEL AND HAS FULL CONCURRENCE OF EMBASSY. COMMENT  
BY EMBASSY FOLLOWS IN PARA 6.

1. OUR SUSPICION IS THAT CRITICISM OF KREIBICH VISIT  
WITHIN AMERICAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY MAY HAVE BEEN  
DELIBERATELY STIRRED UP BY ACTIVE AND ANTI-LEFTIST PRO-  
FESSIONAL GROUPS AT FREE UNIVERSITY, IN PARTICULAR  
NOTGEMEINSCHAFT FUER EINE FREIE UNIVERSITAET (EMERGENCY  
ACTION GROUP FOR A FREE UNIVERSITY). TO APPROACH  
LOEWENTHAL AT THIS POINT TO REQUEST HIS VIEWS ON  
REPORTED CONFLICT WITH KREIBICH WOULD, IF THIS IS TRUE,  
AMOUNT TO NOTIFYING THESE GROUPS THAT THEIR CAMPAIGN IS  
HAVING IMPACT AND WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO STEP UP THEIR  
EFFORTS. FOR THIS REASON WE CONSIDER APPROACH TO  
LOEWENTHAL INADVISABLE

2. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KREIBICH AND LOEWENTHAL (AND  
OTHER ESTABLISHED FU PROFESSORS) ARE LONGSTANDING AND  
WELL-KNOWN PUBLICLY. BASICALLY, THEY ARE ACCOUNTED FOR  
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BY RESENTMENT OF MANY FULL PROFESSORS AT LOSS OF MUCH

OF THEIR TRADITIONAL POWER WITHIN UNIVERSITY AS CONSEQUENCE OF 1969 UNIVERSITY REFORM LAW, AND BY SUBSEQUENT ELECTION OF KREIBICH, THEN YOUNG UNKNOWN ASSISTANT, TO HIGHEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT FU. WHILE KREIBICH HIMSELF IS NOT A RADICAL, HE HAS SYMPATHIZED WITH VIEWS OF LEFT ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND WAS INFLUENCED AT LEAST DURING FIRST FEW YEARS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION BY MARXIST ADVISERS SUCH AS THEN VICE PRESIDENT UWE WESEL. INEXPERIENCED AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT NAIVE, KREIBICH DID LITTLE TO COUNTER DETERMINED EFFORTS OF MARXIST-ORIENTED YOUNGER FACULTY MEMBERS TO UTILIZE DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES INSTITUTED BY 1969 LAW TO GAIN CONTROL OF UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS. AS CONSEQUENCE OF THIS STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF UNIVERSITY SELF-GOVERNING APPARATUS, AND OF INTOLERANCE OF MARXIST TEACHERS TOWARDS VIEWS OF OTHERS, ACADEMIC STANDARDS DECLINED APPRECIABLY IN MANY FIELDS AT FU. IN NUMBER OF CASES DISGUSTED CONSERVATIVES WITHDREW FROM PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE, AND THUS LEFT DEPARTMENTS UNABLE TO ACT OR LEFT-WING FACTIONS FREE TO FILL VACANCIES WITH TEACHERS OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING. CONSERVATIVES HAVE CONSISTENTLY LAID BLAME FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS ON KREIBICH HIMSELF.

3. GREAT MAJORITY OF FU FACULTY REMAINS NON-MARXIST AND HAS FULL FREEDOM TO TEACH. ONLY RELATIVELY FEW DEPARTMENTS-- POLITICAL SCIENCE, GERMANISTIK, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES--HAVE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF MARXIST-ORIENTED TEACHERS. IN MID-1974 CLASSES OF ONE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH WERE DISRUPTED ON HALF-DOZEN OCCASIONS BY BAND OF COMMUNIST STUDENTS, BUT KREIBICH TOOK SEVERE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST DISRUPTERS AND SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE NOT RECURRED IN MEANTIME. IN FACT, ALL-ROUND INDICATIONS ARE THAT LEFTIST TREND AT FU REACHED PEAK MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, AND IS NOW DEFINITELY ON THE WANE. MODERATE ELEMENTS ACQUIRED MAJORITY IN FU COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 1974, AND THIS BODY SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED MODERATE CANDIDATES TO THE FOUR UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENCIES, INCLUDING HARTMUT JAECKEL, ONE OF THREE OFFICIALS KREIBICH WILL TAKE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. AT UNIVERSITY EXPENSE. (DR. HARTWICH, ONE OF TWO OTHER OFFICIALS TO GO, HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL IN PAST OF KREIBICH LEANINGS AND "SOFTNESS" TOWARDS LEFT.) KREIBICH HIMSELF HAS ALSO SHOWN INCREASED RECOGNITION THAT EXTREME ELEMENTS COULD NOT REALLY BE INDUCED INTO UNDERTAKING MEANINGFUL COOPERATION ON UNIVERSITY MATTERS, AND HAS EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN TAKING LOOK AT U.S. UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE TO SEE WHAT MIGHT

BE USEFUL FOR SOLUTION OF HIS OWN DIFFICULTIES AND TO  
STRENGTHEN FU TIES WITH U.S. INSTITUTIONS.

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P R 111747Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8612

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

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4. AT SAME TIME ABOVE EVOLUTION TRANSPILING IN  
UNIVERSITY ATTITUDE, LIBERAL UNIVERSITY REFORM LAW OF  
1969 UNDERWENT SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT IN 1973 AND 1974  
AS PART OF EFFORTS OF CITY GOVERNMENT TO COUNTER  
EFFORTS OF RADICAL LEFT TO SEIZE CONTROL OF UNIVERSI-  
TIES. POWERS OF FULL PROFESSORS TO INFLUENCE ANY  
DECISION CONCERNING TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND APPOINT-  
MENTS HAVE BEEN INCREASED; FINAL AUTHORITY OVER MANY  
APPOINTMENTS HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM PRESIDENT AND GIVEN TO  
KURATORIUM, JOINT STATE-UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BODY, AND  
ABILITY OF YOUNG, OFTEN MARXIST-ORIENTED, TUTORS TO  
SET UP OWN COURSES INDEPENDENT OF PROFESSORIAL SUPER-  
VISION HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

5. GIVEN THESE MODERATING TRENDS, THIS SEEMS IDEAL  
TIME TO EXPOSE KREIBICH TO U.S. SCENE AND EXPERIENCE,  
IN WHICH HE IS INTENSELY INTERESTED. WE  
HOPE IN THIS WAY TO GIVE PUSH TO YET FURTHER MODERATION  
AT FU AND TO ACHIEVE CLEAR RECOGNITION ON PART OF

KREIBICH THAT UNIVERSITIES IN OPEN SOCIETY CANNOT PERMIT THEMSELVES TO BE SUBVERTED BY EXTREME LEFT, NO MATTER HOW ADMIRABLE ITS REFORM WRAPPING MAY SEEM. WE ARE ALSO OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT EXCHANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAM WELCOMES PRECISELY THIS SORT OF OPPORTUNITY-- OR GAMBLE--TO HELP BRING SHIFT IN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS WE DEEM MISGUIDED OR INIMICAL TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. WE ARE THEREFORE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THOSE U.S. ACADEMICS WHO SEE VALUE OF KREIBICH EXPOSURE TO U.S. SOCIETY AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THUS WELCOME PROPOSED SESSION WITH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL. IN MEANTIME MUCH OF ABOVE COULD BE USED AS NECESSARY OFF THE RECORD TO RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRIES ON VISIT.

6. FOR ITS PART, EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT FU AND IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MODERATING TRENDS IN THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE AND AUGUR WELL FOR FUTURE OF FU. THE IV SELECTION COMMITTEE HAD NO PROBLEM IN NOMINATING KREIBICH FOR ONE OF POST'S TWENTY PRINCIPAL GRANTS IN FY 75 AND WAS PLEASED AT HIS READY, EVEN EAGER, ACCEPTANCE OF IT. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HIS SEEMING DESIRE TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE RADICAL LEFT AT FU WAS LUNCHEON HE GAVE FOR FULBRIGHT COMMISSION DURING ITS BERLIN MEETING IN APRIL 1974 AND HIS WARM REMARKS ON THAT OCCASION CONCERNING FULBRIGHT SUPPORT TO FU IN PAST AND CONTINUING IMPORTANCE HE PLACES ON IT FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE. EMBASSY WISHES, IN PARTICULAR, TO ENDORSE USBERLIN MISSION STATEMENT IN PARA 5 THAT WE SHOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY, IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM, TO HELP PROMOTE SHIFT IN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS, ETC. THERE IS VALUE IN KREIBICH EXPOSURE TO U.S. SOCIETY AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AT THIS TIME, AND WE SEE IN HIS CHOICE OF THOSE ACCOMPANYING HIM, AN HONEST DESIRE TO LEARN FROM AND BENEFIT BY AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

7. FINALLY, EMBASSY AND USBERLIN MISSION WOULD STILL APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO HOW LATEST CANARD OF ALLEGED KREIBICH-LOEWENTHAL LITIGATION GOT STARTED. HILLENBRAND

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